

ARMED MISSILE AND ASTRONAUTICS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

THIRD DRAFT  
23 March 1961

**\*USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File\***

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Secretary of Defense

ATTENTION : Dr. Allain Enthoven

SUBJECT : Answers to DOD Questions #53

The following definitions have been prepared in response to Department of Defense Question #53.

a. Research and Development Missile

A missile allocated for the purpose of research and development test and/or evaluation. Initially these would be of preliminary design and fabricated as R & D missiles. Later, after production has commenced, some production missiles would be allocated for this purpose. These latter missiles are included under the total numbers produced. See Para c.

b. Prototype Missile

A preliminary or early missile of essentially the same design as the production missile.

c. Production Missile \*

A complete missile of an operational type, or one modified for use as a space booster, accepted by the military or other government agency. This term does not imply type of allocation. Prototype missiles are not included herein.

d. Operational Missile

A production missile accepted for operational use. It may be on launcher, in reserve, in the logistic pipeline or in maintenance at echelons above the operational unit.

e. Operational Missile Inventory

The cumulated number of production missiles, less missiles which have been destroyed in testing or through attrition or allocated for non-operational uses such as:

1. Space Boosters
2. Research and Development testing
3. Operational Readiness testing and training.
4. Command Support

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\* Both the US and USSR use the phrase "Series (or serial) production" but with different connotations. We therefore recommend that such a term not be used when comparing programs of the two countries. It is impractical to employ a single term to describe the varying U.S. and Soviet meanings ascribed to "Serial Production". Variations in meanings even exist within the U.S. usage of this term.

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Included in the Operational Missile Inventory are missiles in the logistic pipeline and in maintenance at echelons above the operational unit. There is not necessarily a launcher for all available missiles.

f. In-Commission Missile

An operational missile which has been checked out and considered good enough to put on launcher.

g. Operational Missile Launcher

A launcher constructed for operational purposes, accepted by the military, together with the necessary checkout and other support equipment required to launch.

h. In-Commission Missile Launcher

An operational missile launcher which has been checked out and considered good enough to mount a missile.

i. Ready Missile

An in-commission missile mounted on an in-commission launcher in a trained unit with warhead mated, which is considered ready to be committed to launch.

j. Missile In-Commission Rate

The percentage of operational missiles which are in commission.

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7. Missile Launcher In-Commission Rate

The percentage of operational missile launchers which are in commission.

1. Ready Missile Rate

The percentage of in-commission missiles mounted on in-commission launchers with warhead mated which are considered ready.

m. On-Launcher Reliability

The percentage of ready missiles which will successfully complete the countdown and leave the launcher within the required time limits.

n. In-Flight Reliability

The percentage of missiles launched the warhead of which actually detonate as planned in the target area (i. e. within three CEPs of the aiming point).

o. IOC Date

The date when the first operational unit is trained and equipped with a few missiles and launchers.

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